



COUNCIL DISTRICT

FRYE LIGHTS

DECEMBER 2008

VOLUME VI ISSUE XII



Serving

Bay Ho

Bay Park

Birdland

De Anza

Clairemont

Kearny Mesa

Linda Vista

Mission Valley

Mission Bay Park

Mission Village

Morena

Serra Mesa

Don't let crooks humbug your holiday

Happy Holidays! I hope you have a wonderful time celebrating with your family and friends. I also want to ensure that your holidays are safe, so I am providing some tips from San Diego Police Officer Charlie Wetzel, a Community Service Officer in the Department's Northern Division.

It is that time of year again when we all get overwhelmed with the chaos of the holiday season. This is a very joyous time of the year, and it's easy to forget the simple things we can do on a daily basis to protect ourselves, our families and, of course, our property. While most people enjoy the holiday season, there are always those who see it as an opportunity to commit crimes and prey on others. Here are some basic reminders to consider.

— Vehicle burglaries have been a problem for many years and they continue to be. These crimes tend to escalate during the holidays because there are more cars on the streets and in parking lots. Like many crimes, this one can usually be prevented. Thieves who break into vehicles are looking for property. If you leave items in your vehicle, in plain view, you are more likely to have your car broken into. Therefore, secure your items and take all valuables with you. Plan your shopping to make one trip to the car when you are ready to leave. Always lock your vehicle and, if shopping at night, try and park in a well-lit, well-occupied area.

— When walking, be aware of your surroundings at all times. Avoid walking alone, and stick to well-lit areas where you can see a good distance. Have your car keys in hand, and get into your vehicle as quickly as possible. If your vehicle has an electronic remote, unlock the door before you arrive. If you see something or someone suspicious, do not give them the opportunity get close enough to do you harm. Call out for help or hit the panic button on the remote to attract attention.

— Another crime that spikes this time of year is Internet theft. Sites like Craigslist and eBay attract con artists. A good rule is this: If it seems too good to be true, it probably is. There are some deals to be made on the Internet, but be aware of possible scams. If purchasing online, do your best to confirm the person you are dealing with is legitimate. Try to get a phone number and address, and call rather than e-mail. Use one credit card for Internet purchases, one with a very low credit limit. That limits the amount a criminal would be able to charge.

Thieves can be crafty, and they are always thinking of new ways to commit crimes. Especially this time of year, with holiday shopping and bustling at its height, we all need to do our part to stay aware and safe where we live and visit.

Circle buddies

Clairemont High School students Chris Medrano, left, and Jeffrey Ballman are part of an innovative program, "Circle of Friends," that's bridging barriers between disabled teens and their classmates. Story on Page 2.



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“Circle of Friends” brings students together

Program pairs disabled teens with peer volunteers



Jeffrey Ballman, second from right, likes to “chill” with his Circle of Friends.

On the campus of Clairemont High School, junior Chris Medrano and sophomore Jeffrey Ballman do things that teenage pals do. They eat lunch together. They laugh and joke around. They talk about girls.

It doesn't matter that Chris is able-bodied and Jeffrey uses a wheelchair as his mobility aid and has trouble talking and remembering things. Jeffrey sustained near-fatal head injuries in a January 2007 car crash that killed his dad.

In fact, Jeffrey's condition is what brought them together. They're part of a program called “Circle of Friends” that pairs disabled students with non-disabled partners, with the aim of helping both – and the entire student body as well.

“Our focus is social skills and inclusion,” said Marianne Miller, a speech pathologist who coordinates the program at Clairemont and is helping expand it other schools throughout

San Diego. “We build circles around the person with disabilities.

“We train peer friends like Christopher to meet Jeffrey's needs in a natural setting. He coaches and guides Jeffrey, and they become friends. It's a wonderful program.”

Circle of Friends was pioneered in Santa Monica in 1999 and was launched in San Diego in 2006 at Clairemont and Patrick Henry high schools. Ten other City schools now have chapters, and the list is growing. Additional information is available on the program Web site, www.circleofriends.org.

Clairemont High's chapter has 160 students, only about a third of whom have disabilities – or “challenges,” as leaders prefer to call them -- such as autism, cerebral palsy, Down Syndrome or blindness. Each disabled student has at least one or two “peer friends.”

Every Thursday, participants come to Miller's class to start their lunch period. Some eat together and chat in the classroom. Others work on a jigsaw puzzle, or sit in small groups on the grass outside under a tree. They might bounce a basketball or take turns petting one of Miller's two mascot guinea pigs.

Mostly they just enjoy each other's company, which, Miller says, is what it's really all about.

“The one thing that kids need, particularly in high school, is peers. That becomes the most important influence in their lives,” she said.

Sometimes a peer friend will attend all or part of a class with his or her partner to help with some tasks. They sometimes get together after school

and take part in group events – a holiday party, a movie or karaoke night, a Souplantation fundraiser dinner.

(Continued on Page 3)



From left, Charita Peyton, Alex Iverson and Corey Greathouse tackle a puzzle, with coordinator Marianne Miller, center, and other program participants in the background.



Circle of Friends

(Continued from page 2)

Chris, 16, is one of 14 student officers of the Clairemont group, helping Miller to plan and organize such activities, funded entirely by donations. He says he enjoys that, but what he likes most is the bond he's developing with Jeffrey.

"He's had to learn how to speak and walk and go to the bathroom again all by himself," he said. "We're at a stage where we're trying to get him comfortable, make new friends . . . and make him feel like he's not different."

Jeffrey, 15, struggles for the words to say what the program means to him, but there's no mistaking his feelings.

"It's cool," he said, beaming a grin as wide as the brim of his Chargers cap. "I get to chill, with friends my age."

Miller says the therapeutic and emotional benefits are obvious for both sides of these partnerships. Equally impressive, though, are the ripples they're spreading throughout the school.

"They're changing the climate of the campus, building inclusion and an acceptance of individual differences," she said. "They're re-enforcing that we're all more alike than different."



Students with and without disabilities share lunch periods together on the lawn outside Miller's classroom at Clairemont High.

Serra Mesa elementary school seeks help with 50th anniversary celebration

The 50th Anniversary of Cubberley Elementary School in Serra Mesa will be on May 21, 2009! The Dinner/Reception/Awards event will be on May 21 at 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., but organizers are in the planning stages for a yearlong celebration with monthly events and need help fundraising. If you have funds, services, products or talents to donate to the 50th Anniversary celebration, they need to hear from you. You can donate at the Cubberley Alumni Web site at www.cubberleyalumni.com. Or for more information, please contact Maria Edwards at (619) 517-9358 or Judy Hoaglin-Thomas at (619) 462-5168.



Watts Up? Saving energy in light bulb exchange

Councilmember Frye and members of her staff exchanged their incandescent lamp bulbs and holiday lights for energy-efficient compact fluorescent lights and light-emitting diode strands Nov. 20 at City Hall as part of the “Watts Up” conservation campaign.

Some 127 City employees and other SDGE customers traded old bulbs for new in last month’s event, which is part of an ongoing program co-sponsored by the City of San Diego and San Diego Gas & Electric Co.

Since 2007, more than 14,000 bulbs and strands have been exchanged at similar events held throughout the City. The electricity saved by that number of bulbs translates to removing 206 tons of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere or planting 10,300 trees.

Several more exchange events are scheduled this month, including at the December Nights festivities in Balboa Park.

For a list, visit the Environmental Services Web site, <http://www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/energy/conservation/residential/bulbexchange.shtml>.

For additional information, contact Dennis Williams in the City’s Environmental Services Department, (858) 573-1241.



Donna embraced Kathie Pishny, an Environmental Services program specialist, at the Nov. 20 light exchange at City Hall.



Donna, right, traded in her light bulbs with staffers, left to right, Chet Barfield, Keith Corry and Steven Hadley.

Frye, DeMaio release final report on Council reforms

On Nov. 13, Councilmember Donna Frye and Councilmember-Elect Carl DeMaio continued their efforts to reform the City Council by releasing a Final Report on City Council Governance — aimed at improving the openness, effectiveness and independence of the Council in a Strong Mayor-Strong Council form of government.

The report is the result of an intensive study on City Council policies and procedures, featuring interviews with experts in municipal management and input from the public. It was issued after Frye and DeMaio held public hearings on the matter to collect input from residents throughout the city.

“It is time to examine — in a truly bipartisan manner — the policies, structure and operations of the City Council to make it a more effective and open legislative body,” Frye said.

The report will be presented to the incoming City Council for consideration Dec. 9. The following reforms will be considered for immediate implementation:

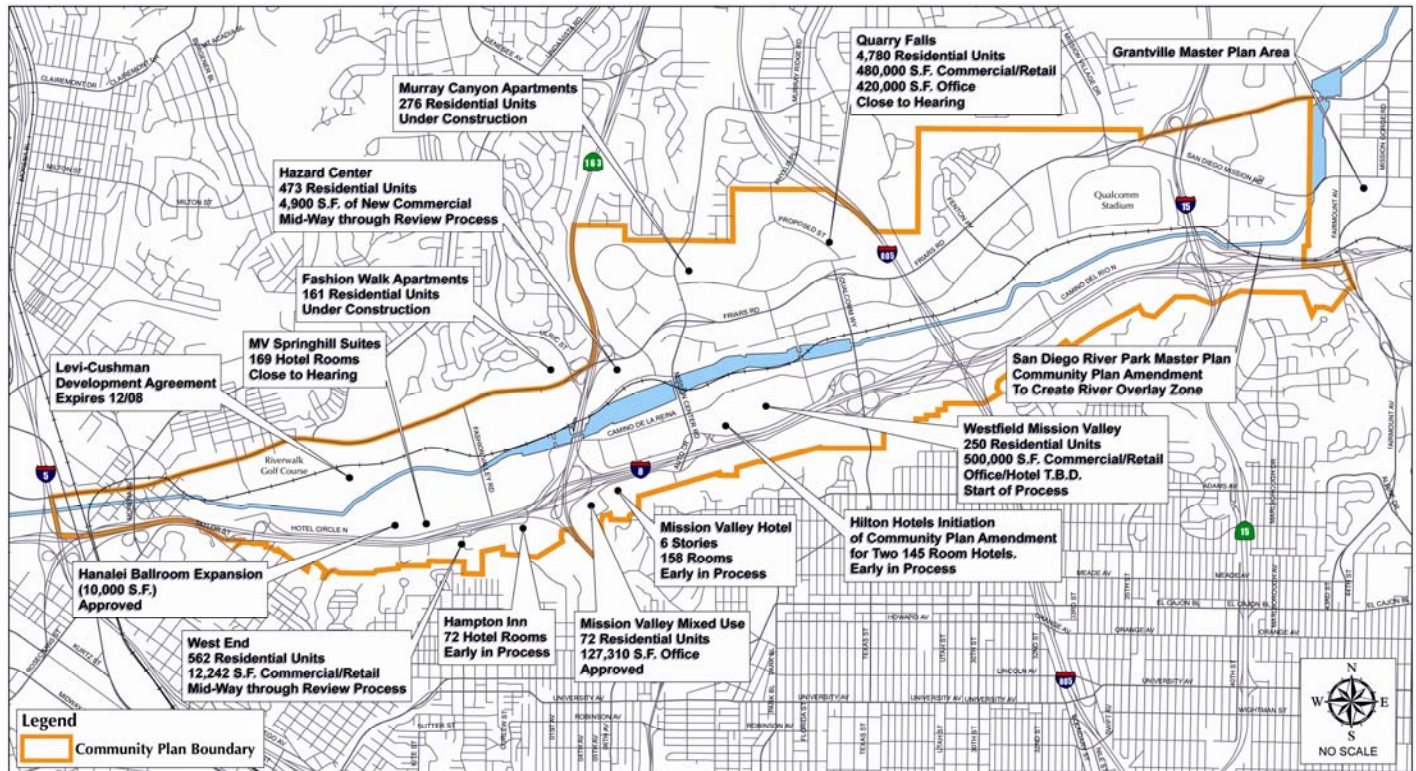
- Hold City departments accountable for timely disclosure of documentation for the Council docket.
- Expand use of evening and District meetings; improve use of City TV.
- Request monthly Public Comment & Question Session with the Mayor.
- Adopt Performance-based Budgeting Ordinance; expand access to the docket.
- Enhance Council Oversight of Independent Agencies,
- Include Councilmember attendance at Disclosure Practices Working Group.
- Clarify Rules for Election of Council Leadership.
- Professionalize Docket Management.

To read the full report, visit <http://www.sandiego.gov/citycouncil/cd6/pdf/press/081027.pdf>.



Mission Valley building boom

In a second-reading formality on Nov. 10, the City Council voted 7-1 to approve the Quarry Falls mixed-use development in Mission Valley. Councilmember Frye cast the dissenting vote. With 4,780 residential units and 900,000 square feet of retail and commercial space planned, the 230-acre project will be one of the largest of its kind ever developed in San Diego. But plenty of other big plans are in the works for Mission Valley, which is already one of the City's most intensely developed areas. Here is a Planning Department map showing the status of those proposals as of October, before Quarry Falls was approved.



Mission Valley Projects - October 2008

CITY OF SAN DIEGO • CITY PLANNING & COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

SDGIS

San Diego Geographic Information System
This map was created using data from the City of San Diego's GIS database. The data was last updated on 10/15/08. The map is for informational purposes only and does not constitute a contract or warranty of any kind. The City of San Diego is not responsible for any errors or omissions on this map.



Saluting the Elks

On Nov. 8, Councilmember Frye issued a Special Commendation welcoming members of the Improved Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the World to their Pacific States Mid-Winter Convention at Mission Valley's Town and Country Hotel. Accepting the Commendation were Brother State President Daniel Davis, left, and Daughter State President Carole Sommers of the organization's Pacific State Association.



Frye, agencies chip in to spruce up senior's home



Max and Donna, second and third from left, shared hugs with volunteers who helped.

On Oct. 31, Councilmember Frye's office, in a partnership project with Rebuilding Together San Diego (RTSD), the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) and Allied Waste Management, made Clairemont resident Max Sturman very happy.

About a month earlier, a City Neighborhood Code Compliance inspector had called Frye's office, relaying concerns about the state of Max's yard.



Max was all smiles in his back yard as District Six staffer Mary Ann Kempczenski, left, looked on.

Pamela Thorsch from RTSD immediately worked to mobilize several different groups to donate their time, resources,



Donna and Max, center, were grateful to helpers who pitched in to beautify the senior's home and yard. District Six staffer Keith Corry, back right, helped coordinate the effort.

supplies, and labor to help clean up

Max's back yard. At 8 a.m. on Friday the 31st, the work began to transform 88-year-old Mr. Sturman's yard back into the beautiful fruit and vegetable garden it once was. The work completed that day included the installation of a privacy fence, a power washing of his home, carpet and debris removal from Max's and the City's canyon property, old fence removal, tree and brush trimming, house painting, a brand new gifted patio set, painted existing patio chair, new doorbell installation, new blinds, and exterior window washing.

It was truly an example of agencies coming together to help a resident in need. On behalf of Max and the many

other seniors in the community who benefit from your service, thank you Pamela, AARP and Allied Waste Management for helping to revive the natural beauty of one of our resident's homes!

Ruffin Canyon could use your help

Volunteers are invited to join the Friends of Ruffin Canyon for canyon cleanups the first Saturday of every month. This month's event will be 9 a.m. to noon Dec. 6. Meet at the foot of Shawn Avenue west of Mission Village Drive. Wear sturdy shoes, long sleeves and pants, a hat and sunblock, and bring water. For more information, call Monica at (858) 268-0106 or Bonnie at (858) 560-8327.



Great kickoff for LV Cup soccer tourney

Sunny skies and warm temperatures heralded the inaugural Linda Vista Cup soccer tournament for boys and girls ages 9 to 18 at Mesa College on Nov. 15.

“We had a great start,” said Robert Shim, a member of the Linda Vista Collaborative, the community group that organized the event. “It was a really good time for everyone. We hope it will grow and be even better next year.”

About 50 youngsters participated in the day-long round of games, said Shim. He noted that the tournament’s goals of teaching kids sportsmanship, team spirit and offering them a healthy alternative to participation in gangs were well served.



There were slick moves....



... And expert advice ...



... Some GREAT blocks ...



... And hugs for sporting pals!



Memorial dedication offers wave of support to decades of surfing at Tourmaline



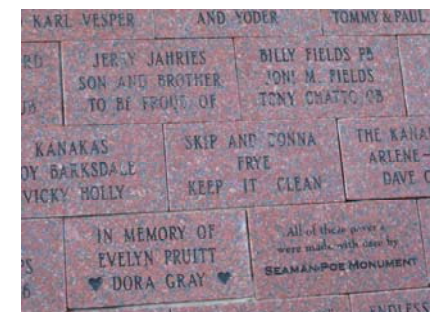
Councilmember Frye joined Mayor Sanders, Councilmember Kevin Faulconer and scores of surf enthusiasts and ocean-lovers Nov. 1 for the dedication of a monument to surfers and surfing at La Jolla's Tourmaline Beach.



The "Tourmaline Canyon Surfing Park Memorial" features an image of local surfer and surfboard shaper Skip Frye, who is celebrating 50 years of surfing this year. Design and installation of the monument was the result of two years of collaboration between the City, private entities and the Tourmaline Tailgaters Surfing Association.



Councilmember Frye issued a proclamation stating the memorial stands to honor "all surfers, young and old, male and female, the famous, the unknown and all who are passionate about the great sport of surfing and Tourmaline Canyon Surfing Park."



Tourmaline became an official surfing park in the mid-1960s and has been enjoyed by millions of surfers since then.





Free December Events @ the Library

North Clairemont Library

4616 Clairemont Drive * 858-581-9931



Preschool Storytime, Music and Song
Every Thursday at 10:30 am (except Dec 25)

Friends of North Clairemont Library

Book Sale - Sat, Dec 13 @ 9:30-2:00 pm

(Entertainment Books are sold here as well!

They make great Holiday Gifts and support your library!)



Winter Holiday Craft Program -

Wed, Dec 17 @ 4:00 pm

Ages 4 and up. No registration required.



Winter Holiday Concert with
Mesa College Guitar Ensemble

Wed, Dec 17 @ 6:30 p.m.





A new way to help teachers, students and schools

Even before the current financial crisis struck, teachers often found that scarce school budgets failed to cover certain teaching materials they feel could greatly benefit students.

A new not-for-profit Web site is seeking to bridge that budget gap. DonorsChoose.org invites teachers to submit a "project proposal," a kind of wish list, for teaching materials.

Teachers provide a short essay asking for a specific item, like a "Magical Math Center" (\$200); the "Big Book Bonanza" (\$320); or "Cooking Across the Curriculum" (\$1,100). After ensuring the request meets the organization's guidelines, volunteers post the wish lists on their Web site: www.donorschoose.org.

Those wishing to donate can fund all or part of the projects of their choice. Often, participating companies, corporations and foundations offer matching grants.

DonorsChoose.org also works with vendors to get discounts on teaching materials, and it works with grateful teachers in responding with photos and thank-you notes to the "citizen philanthropists" who contribute.

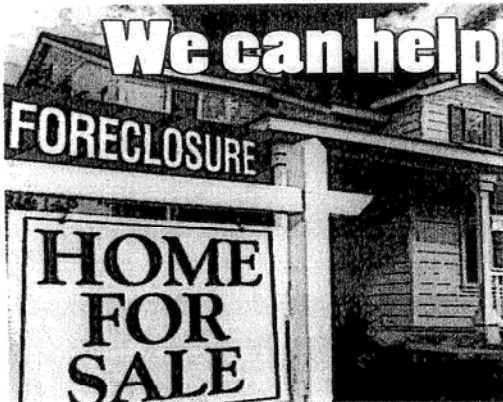
For more information – and to see which teachers and schools near you have registered with the fledgling group – visit their Web site

How It Works



Don't fall for foreclosure scams –

We can help you save your home.



BAYSIDE

Community Center

announces

Save Linda Vista

Homeownership Initiative

*a new FREE service for stabilizing the
Linda Vista & North Central San Diego Communities*

Free Foreclosure Intervention Counseling

Every Wednesday

6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

at Bayside Community Center
2202 Comstock St. at Linda Vista Rd.

A counseling service to work with you to find a solution.

The Save Linda Vista Homeownership Initiative has a single mission: to help Linda Vista homeowners avoid foreclosure. We provide NeighborWorks trained counselors dedicated to helping homeowners stay in their homes.

There are many reasons why homeowners are having difficulty holding onto their homes:

- Job loss or business failure
- Catastrophic health care costs
- Sudden rise in interest rates or change in mortgage terms
- Divorce
- Disaster or emergency
- Fraud or scams

Our counselors are experts in foreclosure prevention and trained to set up a plan of action designed just for you and your situation. When you talk to us, you won't be judged and you won't pay a dime. That's because we don't just offer general advice - we help you take action. Counselors will arm you with education and support that assists you in overcoming immediate financial issues...at no cost to you.

For appointment
with Juan del Rio,
Foreclosure Inter-
vention Counselor,
call Bayside at:
858-278-0771

NCRC



NeighborWorks®



Important Phone Numbers

Abandoned Vehicles	858-495-7856
Animal Regulation	619-236-4250
Beach & Bay Advisory	619-338-2073
Birth and Death Records	619-237-0502
Brush Abatement	619-533-4444
Building Permits	619-446-5000
Buses/MTS Access	619-233-3004
Canyon Watchers Program	858-292-6484
City Council Docket Info	619-533-4000
City Directory	619-236-5555
Community Service Center	858-581-4111
Code Violations	619-236-5500
Curb Maintenance	619-527-7500
Dead Animal Removal	858-694-7000
Dog Licenses	619-767-2675
Fire Stations	619-533-4300
Graffiti	619-525-8522
Hazardous Materials Hotline	858-694-7000
Housing Commission	619-231-9400
Humane Society	619-299-7012
Libraries	
Balboa	858-573-1390
Clairemont	858-581-9935
Linda Vista	858-573-1399
Mission Valley	858-573-5000
North Clairemont	858-581-9931
Serra Mesa	858-573-1396
Noise Regulation	619-236-5500
Office of Small Business	619-685-1390
Park and Recreation	619-525-8219
Parking Citations	619-236-7145
Police: Non-Emergency	619-531-2000
Pot Hole Hotline	619-527-7500
Recreation Centers	
Kearny Mesa	858-573-1387
Linda Vista	858-573-1392
North Clairemont	858-581-9926
Serra Mesa	858-573-1408
South Clairemont	858-581-9924
Tecolote	858-581-9933
Recycling Hotline	858-694-7000
Senior Citizens Services	619-236-6905
Serra Mesa Community Connection	858-565-2473
Sewer Repair/Spills	619-515-3525
Sidewalk Maintenance	619-527-7500
Stormwater Pollution Hotline	619-235-1000
Street Lights	619-527-7500
Street Sweeping	619-527-7500
Traffic Control	619-533-3126
Tree Maintenance	619-527-7500
Waste Reduction & Disposal	858-492-5010
Water Emergency	619-515-3525
Water Utilities	619-515-3500

District Six Community Meetings

Balboa Avenue Citizens Advisory Committee

Place: Clairemont Community Service Center
4731 Clairemont Drive
When: 4th Wednesday/Month
Time: 7:00 p.m.

Clairemont Town Council

Place: Clairemont High School Cafeteria
4150 Ute Drive
When: 1st Thursday/Month
Time: 7:00 p.m.

Clairemont Mesa Planning Committee

Place: Clairemont Senior Friendship Center
4425 Bannock Ave.
When: 3rd Tuesday/Month
Time: 6:30 p.m.

Kearny Mesa Planning Group

Place: Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library
9005 Aero Drive
When: 3rd Wednesday/Month
Time: 12:00 p.m.

Linda Vista Town Council

Place: Bayside Community Center
2202 Comstock Street
When: 3rd Thursday/Month
Time: 6:30 p.m.

Linda Vista Community Planning Committee

Place: Linda Vista Library
2160 Ulric Street
When: 4th Monday/Month
Time: 6:00 p.m.

Mission Bay Park Committee

Place: Rotating Venue
When: 1st Tuesday/Month
Time: 6:00 p.m.

Mission Valley Community Council

Place: Mission Valley Library
2123 Fenton Parkway
When: 3rd Wednesday/Odd Months
Time: 6:30 p.m.

Mission Valley Unified Planning Committee

Place: Mission Valley Library
2123 Fenton Parkway
When: 1st Wednesday/Month
Time: 12:00 p.m.

Serra Mesa Community Council

Place: Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library
9005 Aero Drive
When: 4th Wednesday/Month
Time: 6:30 p.m.

Serra Mesa Planning Group

Place: Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library
9005 Aero Drive
When: 3rd Thursday/Month
Time: 7:00 p.m.



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FRYE LIGHTS: CELEBRATING THE DISTRICT SIX SPIRIT



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DonnaFrye@sandiego.gov

Web Site:

www.sandiego.gov/cd6

Register to receive updates & event information from Councilmember Frye
by signing up in the "Frye Lights" box at www.sandiego.gov/cd61